George Lardner worked on what I take it was to have been a long and definitive story for last week, including the Lane-Fauntroy business on the King assassination.

It did not appear. I then attributed this to the large proportion of last Sunday's Post that was devoted to what had been leaked to it about the first Nixon/Frost broadcast. This did consume more than two full pages. The Sunday news section of the Post, despite the great weight of the Sunday edition, is perhaps its smallest part. There is little space in i t.

When the story did not appear on Monday's editions, which were heavy with undated stories, I thought it had been killed.

Lane had a press conference Tuesday. He then needled George on the non-appearance of his story. I happened to be nearby. George explained by saying he writes slowly. I added he had orders from his case officer.

Toward the end of this past week George was working on that same story. We discussed it last night, after the Harambee show featuring Fauntroy in the same glibness about his "investigation" and the same attack on the press as serving the CIA, etc.

As of last night George believed this story would be in today's paper.

It is not.

I have not phoned him. There is no reason for him to phone me. I'm sure he is not happy.

Last night he told me I might find it understated. I then told him that understatement is sometimes more effective.

We spoke after the airing of the Harambee show. He had phoned me earlier to be sure I was aware of it. He had gotten involved with his children and had missed the show. He also had made no preparations for taping it. I offered him a tape.

His desk had phoned him to let him know about the show, so he then let me know. I had heard it on WAVA the day before, the part about the press and CIA.

Whatever explains this, I do know that the Post has feared that any mention might promote Lane's book and they do not want to do that.

Lane appears to have been in DC Thursday, which does not suggest that Prentice-Hall has him on the TV-talk-show circuit. George learned this when he asked P-H a question about attendance at the Tuesday press conference. He phoned Pat Monroe, the P-H DC flack, who referred him to April Fergueson at Lane's CCI. Lane phoned back in about a half hour of less to say that she was not there, so George assumed it was a local call.

George says the P-H promo budget for the Lane book is $50,000. This means that besides the cost of producing it the P-H investment is at least $150,000 because Gregory has said that the advance was $100,00. The Kup column months ago described it as a six-figure deal.

HW 5/8/77